

In the Claims:

Claims 1-16 and 18 (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A device according to claim 44 19 further comprising a rechargeable backup battery of sufficient capacity to enable a device to provide access to the vehicle to start when the a main battery has been discharged.

19. (New) A device to provide fingerprint access to the interior of an enclosed vehicle, said vehicle having an electrically or electronically activated access control system, comprising:

a) a protective housing mounted on the exterior of said vehicle, said housing including at least an electronic fingerprint sensor;

b) means for connecting said sensor to a power source;

c) means for connecting said fingerprint sensor to an electronic circuit for storing and verifying electronic fingerprint information;

d) means to activate said electronic circuit, switching said circuit from a low-power sleep state to a higher-power active state wherein said sensor can acquire a fingerprint; and

e) means to activate at least one device which allows access control upon verification of electronically stored fingerprint information.

20. (New) A device according to claim 19 wherein said protective housing includes a sealed unit containing at least one electronic fingerprint sensor.

21. (New) A device according to claim 19 further comprising a hinged protective cover and a means to activate said electronic circuit.

22. (New) A device according to claim 21 wherein said means to activate said electronic circuit is a switch attached to said hinged cover.

23. (New) A device according to claim 21 wherein said means to activate said electronic circuit is at least one switch separate from said hinged cover.

24. (New) A device according to claim 21 wherein said means to activate said electronic circuit includes means to select a function.

25. (New) A device according to claim 23 wherein multiple switches separate from said hinged cover each select a different function.

26. (New) A device according to claim 19 wherein said electronic circuit for storing and verifying electronic fingerprints is within said protective housing.

27. (New) A device according to claim 17 wherein said backup battery has sufficient capacity to enable a vehicle to start when a main battery has been discharged.

28. (New) A device according to claim 19 further comprising a shuttle card reader within or without a vehicle which reads a shuttle card enrolled at a different location with fingerprint information.

29. (New) A device according to claim 28 wherein said shuttle card is radio frequency identification device containing fingerprint information.

30. (New) A method to conserve energy and protect an electronic fingerprint sensor comprising:

a) a clock which counts time since last input into electronic circuit;

b) means responsive to said clock which cuts power to said fingerprint sensor upon elapse of specified number of counts; and

c) means for re-energizing said fingerprint sensor responsive to an outside stimulus.

31. (New) A method according to claim 30 wherein said means for re-energizing said fingerprint sensor is at least one switch.

32. (New) A method according to claim 31 wherein said switch is responsive to the opening of a cover over said fingerprint sensor.

33. (New) A method according to claim 30 wherein said means for re-energizing said fingerprint sensor is a switch which selects a function.

34. (New) A device according to claim 19 further comprising a detachable enroller device which is password protected and enables enrollment of a fingerprint in an electronic circuit for storing and verifying electronic fingerprint information.

35. (New) A device according to claim 34 wherein said enroller device enrolls a shuttle card containing fingerprint information.

36. (New) An enroller according to claim 34 which derives power from an electronic circuit for storing and verifying electronic fingerprint information.

37. (New) A device according to claim 19 further comprising a starter interlock which prevents starter actuation without the presentation of a valid fingerprint.

38. (New) A method for the prevention of unauthorized use of a vehicle comprising a system to provide fingerprint access to a vehicle and a relay which is a starter interlock, wherein a valid fingerprint must be provided to said system before a starter motor can be operated.